



January 11, 2010

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: GN Docket No. 09-191

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

President Obama has made it clear that expanding broadband access is a key priority of his Administration for strengthening America's economy and producing jobs, while also opening the door to new industries and technologies of the 21st century.

We couldn't agree more.

That's why it's important to note the growth of this crucial resource and the barriers to further deployment of high-speed Internet access. According to the FCC's most recent report¹, as of June 2008 there were 1,395 individual broadband providers in the U.S. That's compared to the mere 105 providers in December of 1999. Through those carriers, more than 98 percent of all U.S. zip codes have access to at least three high-speed Internet service providers. That's tremendous growth for a still-developing industry.

With such strong competition and increasing demand for high-speed services, there has also been remarkable advancement in the technologies and web applications adapted in just the past decade. This has had incredibly positive implications for nearly all sectors of the economy, including health care, education, energy and the environment.

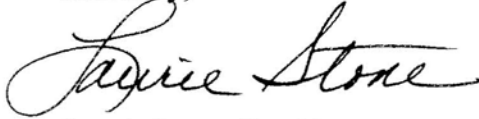
¹ *FCC, High-speed Services For Internet Access, July 2009*

But in spite of the strides made by carriers to open greater access, proposed regulation within the National Broadband Plan would unnecessarily handcuff these same providers and disincentivize deployment to areas not yet covered or underserved.

To do so would not only stifle innovation, but also impede America's competitiveness in an increasingly global marketplace. Putting up roadblocks to adoption will hurt our economy at a time when America is just beginning to climb out of a recession.

We urge you to adopt a plan that encourages investment by the private sector and promotes 100 percent broadband adoption as the top priority of your Broadband Plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Laurie Stone". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Laurie" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Stone".

Laurie Stone, President
Schaumburg Business Association